

Appl. No. 09/303,791
Amdt. Dated January 3, 2005
Reply to Office action of November 3, 2004

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A constant velocity joint boot comprising:
at one end, a cylindrical neck member for receiving a shaft;
a stem portion and an outwardly curved portion, said stem portion
arranged between said neck member and said outwardly curved portion; and
at the other end, an annular upturned member defining a longitudinal axis
and including a crimping lip, said crimping lip having a thickness that is greater than said other
portions of the boot, said crimping lip having a plurality of radially distributed apertures which
are oriented parallel to said longitudinal axis and are approximately 35% to 70% of said
crimping lip thickness for reducing the stiffness and increasing the compressibility of said
crimping lip, wherein said boot is non-convoluted.
2. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint boot of claim 1, wherein the plurality
of radially distributed apertures are a plurality of equally circumferentially spaced apart holes.
3. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint of claim 1, wherein the plurality of
radially distributed apertures are a plurality of equally circumferentially spaced apart radially
distributed cut-outs.
4. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint boot of claim 1, wherein the annular
member is formed of a thermoplastic material.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously Presented) A constant velocity universal joint assembly comprising:
a constant velocity universal joint having an outer race;
a boot-can having a first end for mating with said outer race
annular housing and a second flanged end spaced apart from said first end and said outer race;
and
a non-convoluted thermoplastic rolling-diaphragm boot
having a crimping lip received by the second flanged end of said boot-can, said crimping lip
having a thickness that is greater than other portions of said boot, the crimping lip having a
plurality of radially distributed apertures for increasing the compressibility of the crimping lip
such that said crimping lip has a compress thickness ratio approximately 50% to 70% of an
uncompressed crimping lip thickness.
9. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint assembly of claim 8, wherein the
plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed holes.
10. (Original) The constant velocity universal joint assembly of claim 8, wherein the
plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed cut-outs.
11. (Previously Presented) A constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft
assembly comprising:
a propeller shaft having a first end;
a constant velocity universal joint for receiving the first end
of the propeller shaft and including an outer race having a first face;
a boot-can having a large-diameter end and a small
diameter flanged end, the large-diameter end for mating with the first face of the outer race; and
a non-convoluted thermoplastic boot having a sealing end,
said sealing end having a tubular stem portion for receiving the propeller shaft, and an annular
upturned edge crimpingly affixed to the smaller-diameter flanged end of the boot-can, the
annular upturned edge having a plurality of radially distributed apertures on a radially inward
facing surface for increasing the compressibility of the annular upturned edge, said apertures
reduce required crimping force by up to approximately 50%, and the sealing end cooperating
with the propeller shaft to provide a seal therewith.

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12. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft assembly of claim 11, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed holes.

13. (Original) The constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft assembly of claim 11, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed cut-outs.

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